

Golf course debate becomes acrimonious

■ DUXBURY

Bornheimer's husband, Moderator Allen Bornheimer, yielded the gavel to former Moderator Charles Fargo during the library debate and vote.

He resumed his post just in time to preside over one of the most acrimonious debates in recent Duxbury history: discussion of a proposal to expand the town-owned North Hill golf course to 18 holes.

Opponent Holly Morris, speaking for what she described as a significant number of people, said the proposed nine holes were slated to go on land over a portion of Duxbury's aquifer, which supply water to eight town wells.

She suggested that runoff and residues from the golf course could pollute the water supply. "How much does it cost to buy water when there is no more acceptable water?" Morris asked.

An angry Selectman James Murphy responded by saying that expansion opponents had organized "a campaign of misinformation the likes of which I've never seen in town government."

The three selectmen, who sponsored the golf course article, were being accused of various crimes, among them the destruction of the environment in advocating the clearing of land for nine new holes; accounting fraud in their revenue projections; poisoning the water supply; and "plotting the premeditated murder of the entire village," Murphy said.

He asked his two colleagues, Margaret Kearney and Friend Weiler, to stand beside him, then asked town meeting: "Have you ever seen a pair that looks more like cold-blooded killers?"

Noting the uncontrolled use of herbicides and pesticides by local homeowners, Murphy said, "Our wells are in far more danger from what we do on our private property than what the town does at the golf course."

But fears prevailed that the water supply might be endangered and for the second year in a row a proposal to expand the golf course failed to garner even a majority vote.

In earlier action, town meeting:

- With little discussion, approved operating and capital outlay budgets totaling \$29.7 million for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

- Agreed to spend \$48,000 for plans and permits for a sewer system to solve septic waste problems in the Snug Harbor business district. Construction money is expected to be sought at a special town meeting in the fall.

- Agreed to borrow \$325,000 to replace the antiquated irrigation system at the North Hill golf course.

- Agreed to swap a 5.49-acre parcel with the Massachusetts Audubon Society so the town will own the land surrounding the new Mayflower II well.

Town meeting will reconvene at 7:30 tonight in the Duxbury Elementary School gymnasium to act on such issues as providing funds for dredging the harbor.